

2019

School re-entry and retention policies in Kenya: Homa Bay County Head Teachers Dialogue

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School Re-Entry and Retention Policies in Kenya

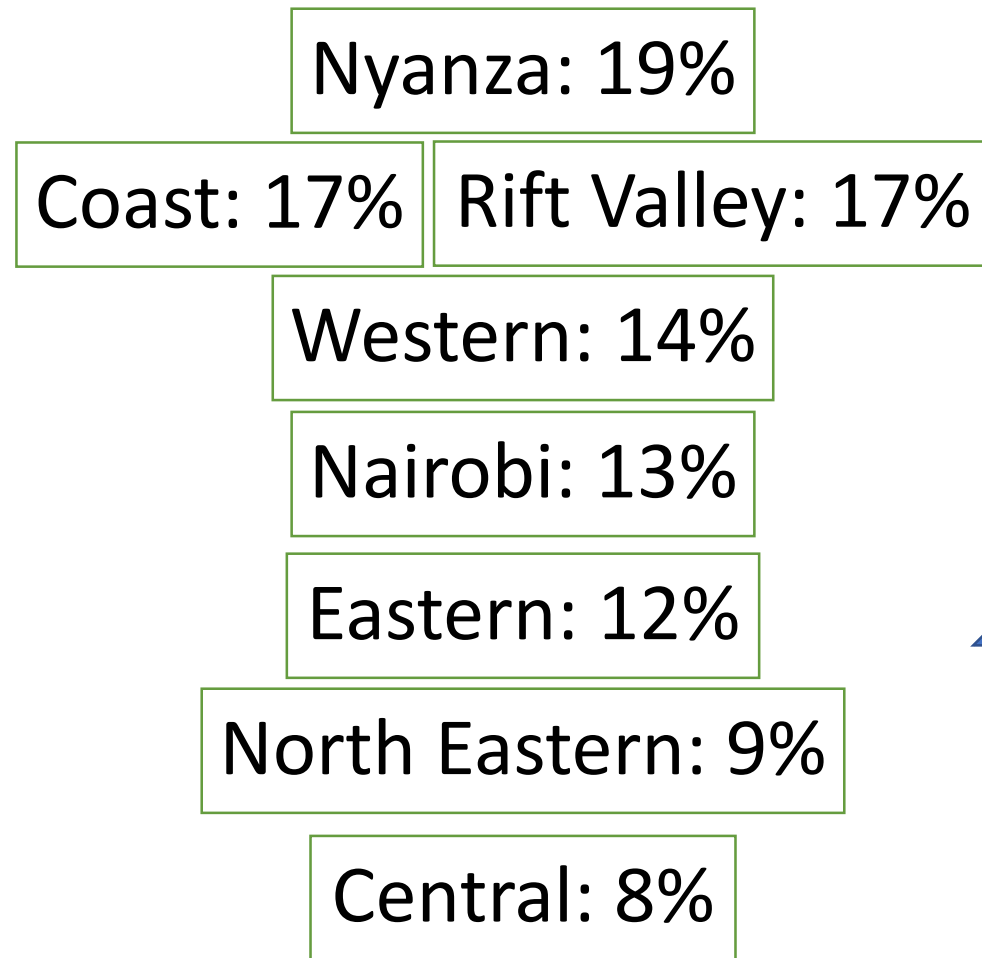
Homa Bay County Head Teachers Dialogue

Ciala Resort, Kisumu
September 13, 2019



Photo by Hellen Murugi

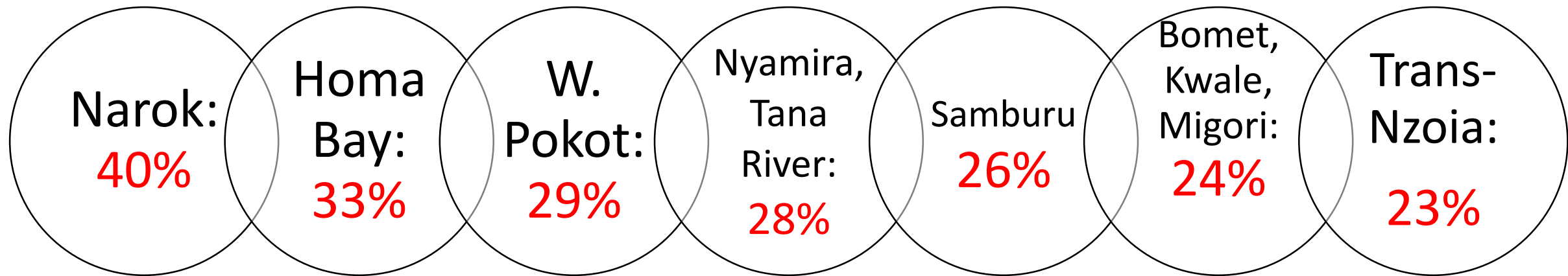
Early pregnancy & motherhood in Kenya: 'Not yet *uhuru*'



BY REGION

Percentage of girls aged 15-19 who have begun childbearing in Kenya

Early pregnancy & motherhood in Kenya: 'Not yet *uhuru*'



BY COUNTY:

Percentage of girls aged 15-19 who have begun childbearing in Kenya

Source: KNBS et al. (2015). Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2014. Calverton, Maryland: KNBS, MOH, NACC, KEMRI, NCPD and ICF International.

There is a problem ...

- The proportion of girls (aged 15-19) who get pregnant in Kenya **has not changed** in the last **decade**.
- **75%** of these girls either have **no education** (33%), **incomplete primary education** (19%), or complete primary education with **no secondary education** (36%).



Photo by Nircle

The reality ...

- **98%** of girls aged 15-19 who have ever been pregnant in Kenya are **out of school**.



Photo by Standard Media

Kenya's policy responses

1994

- **Adoption of school re-entry policy** for girls at MOE's National Symposium on girls' education

1996

- **Formulation of basic guidelines** for school re-entry by MOE (issued through a circular to schools)

2009

- Publication of **National School Health Policy**, including guidance on handling **in-school pregnancy**

2019

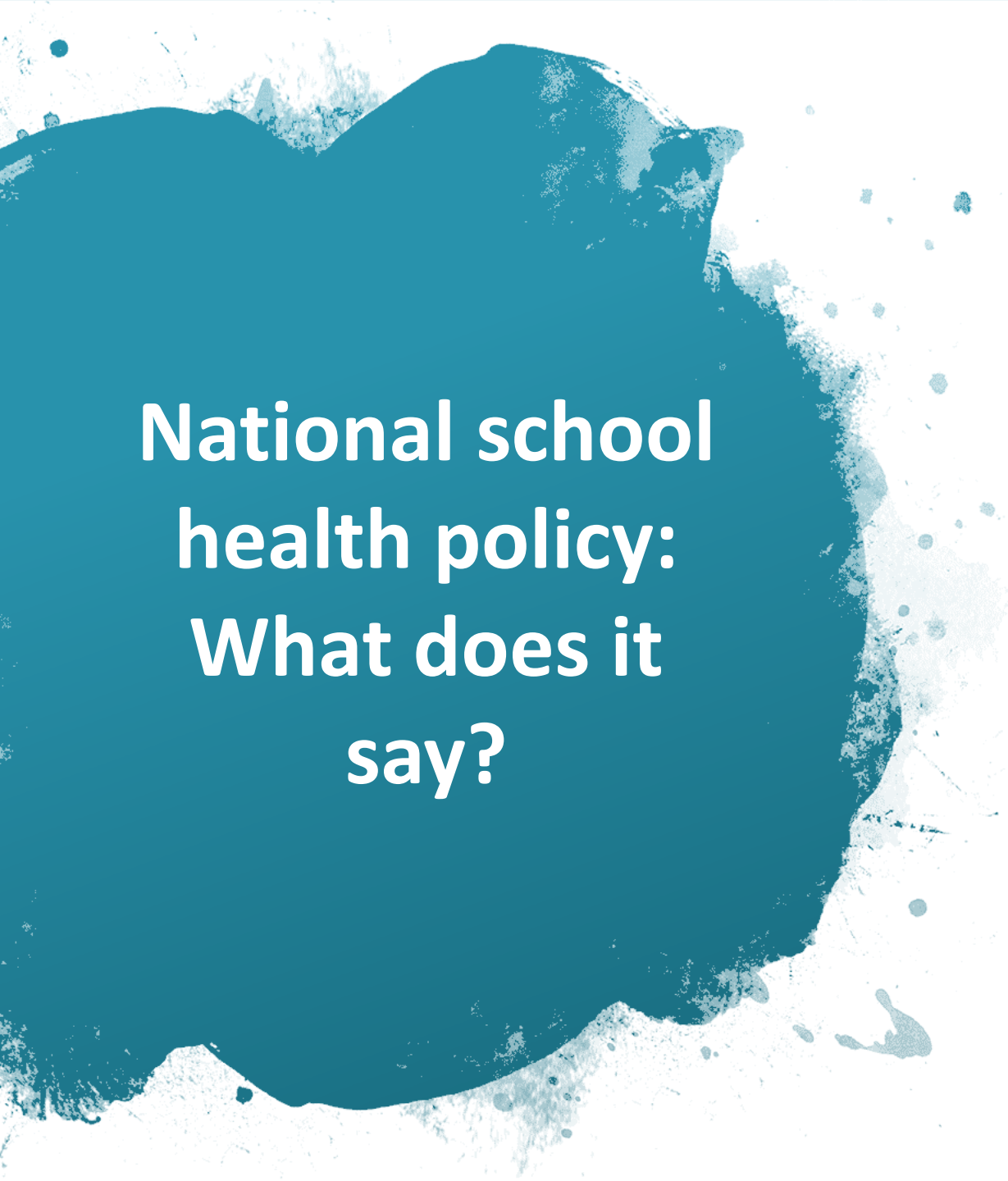
- Ongoing finalization of **revised** school re-entry policy guidelines

School re-entry policy guidelines: What do they say?

Guidance + counseling
for pregnant learners,
other students,
parents, teachers

Unconditional re-
admission for
pregnant girls after
delivery

Schools, MOE to
provide support in the
admission process
(into other schools)



National school health policy: What does it say?

- ✓ Pregnant learners allowed to remain in school for as long as possible
- ✓ To be advised of option to return to school after delivery
- ✓ Life skills counseling to be provided after delivery to help prevent repeat pregnancy
- ✓ Supportive environment, free of discrimination, to be provided by school administration

Why we're here today

- **Meeting objectives**
 - Provide a forum for:
 - **Stock-taking** around school re-entry policy implementation
 - Sharing of best practices around re-entry policy implementation
 - Sharing of experiences with (and solutions to) any barriers to school re-entry policy implementation
 - **Reflection** and **opinion-sharing** on re-entry and retention policies for girls
- Revitalize implementation of re-entry policy

Thank you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIV97ja5U0A&feature=youtu.be>



Photo by The Star

Baseline Survey Results *2018-2019*

Chi-Chi Undie, Harriet Birungi, George Odwe,
Francis Obare





Photo by BBC

WHY we conducted 'baseline' surveys

- To gain knowledge of our **starting point** with regard to promoting girls' school re-entry ('Where did we start?') so that we can later on understand **how far we have come** ('Where did we end? What progress did we make?')



**WHERE we
conducted
baseline surveys**

- **Homa Bay County**
 - Homa Bay
 - Ndhiwa
 - Rangwe

WITH WHOM we conducted baseline surveys



Photo by kenyaselfhelp.org

- **Head Teachers**
(n=251)
- **Girls** aged 12-16 in
their homes (n=620)
- **Girls' household
heads** (n=644)

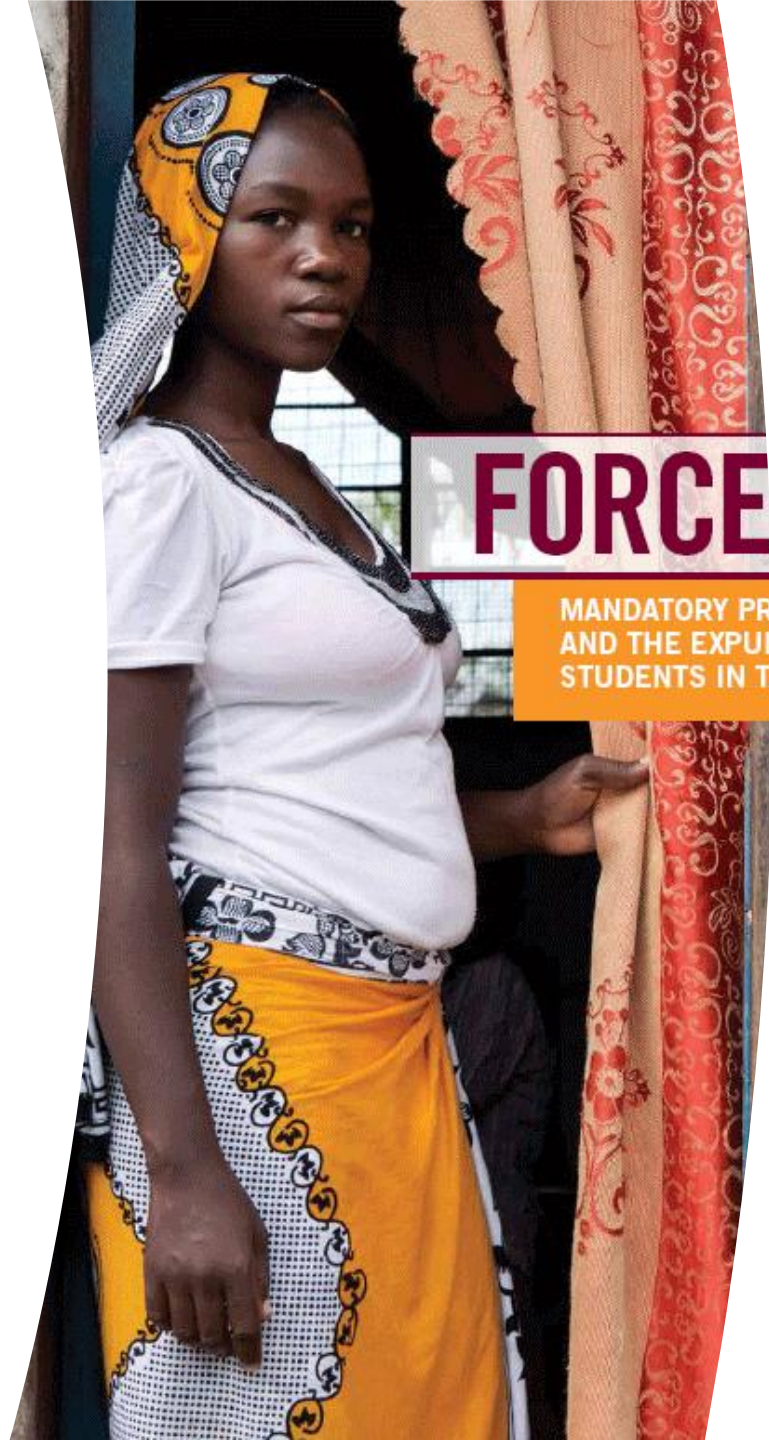




What we're learning from Head Teachers



**Pregnancy
is an issue
that
primary
schools in
Homa Bay
cannot
ignore**



- ***‘In the last one year [March 2018-March 2019], how many pregnancies have occurred in your school?’***

Over 230
pregnancies

Pregnancy is an issue that primary schools in Homa Bay cannot ignore

- **61%** of Head Teachers have had girls get pregnant in their school and return to the same school in the last year.
- **35%** have had had girls get pregnant elsewhere, then seek admission in their school after delivery
- **20%** don't know/aren't sure, so it could be much higher.

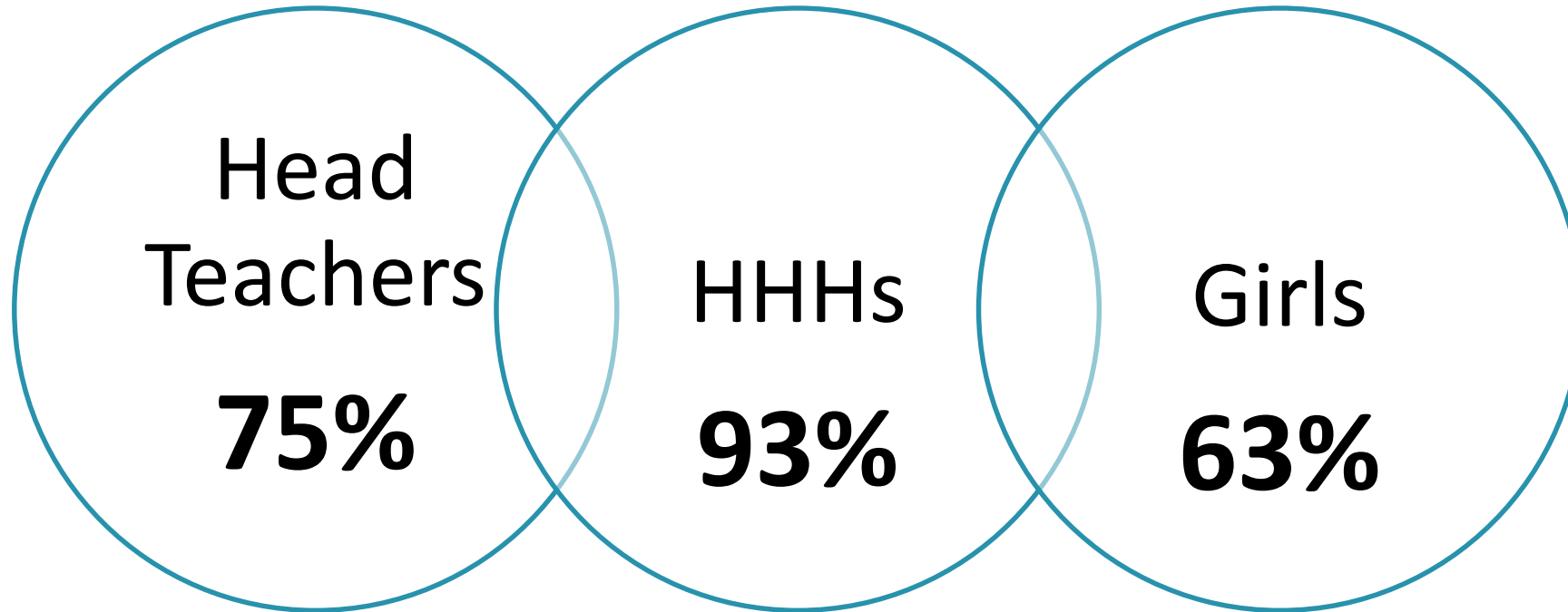


Missed opportunity

- Most primary schools (**96%**) offer life skills education (LSE)
- But nearly half (**48%**) **do not** have an actual curriculum for LSE
- And in **27%** of primary schools, LSE is taught as part of another subject



‘Girls who get pregnant should be allowed to remain in school’



Head Teachers' reasons

- Rights
- Pregnancy is not a disability
- Well-being

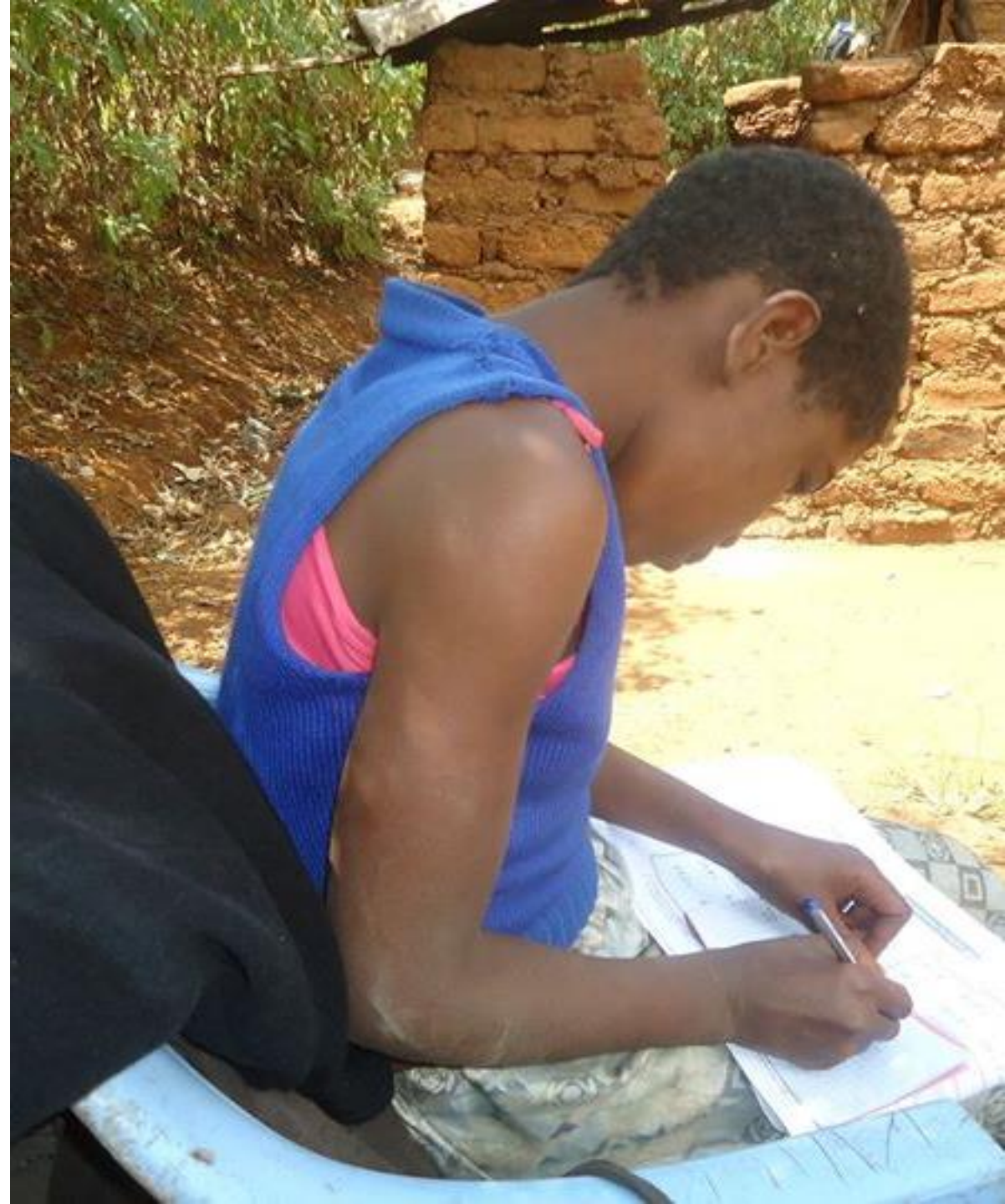


Photo by Niracle

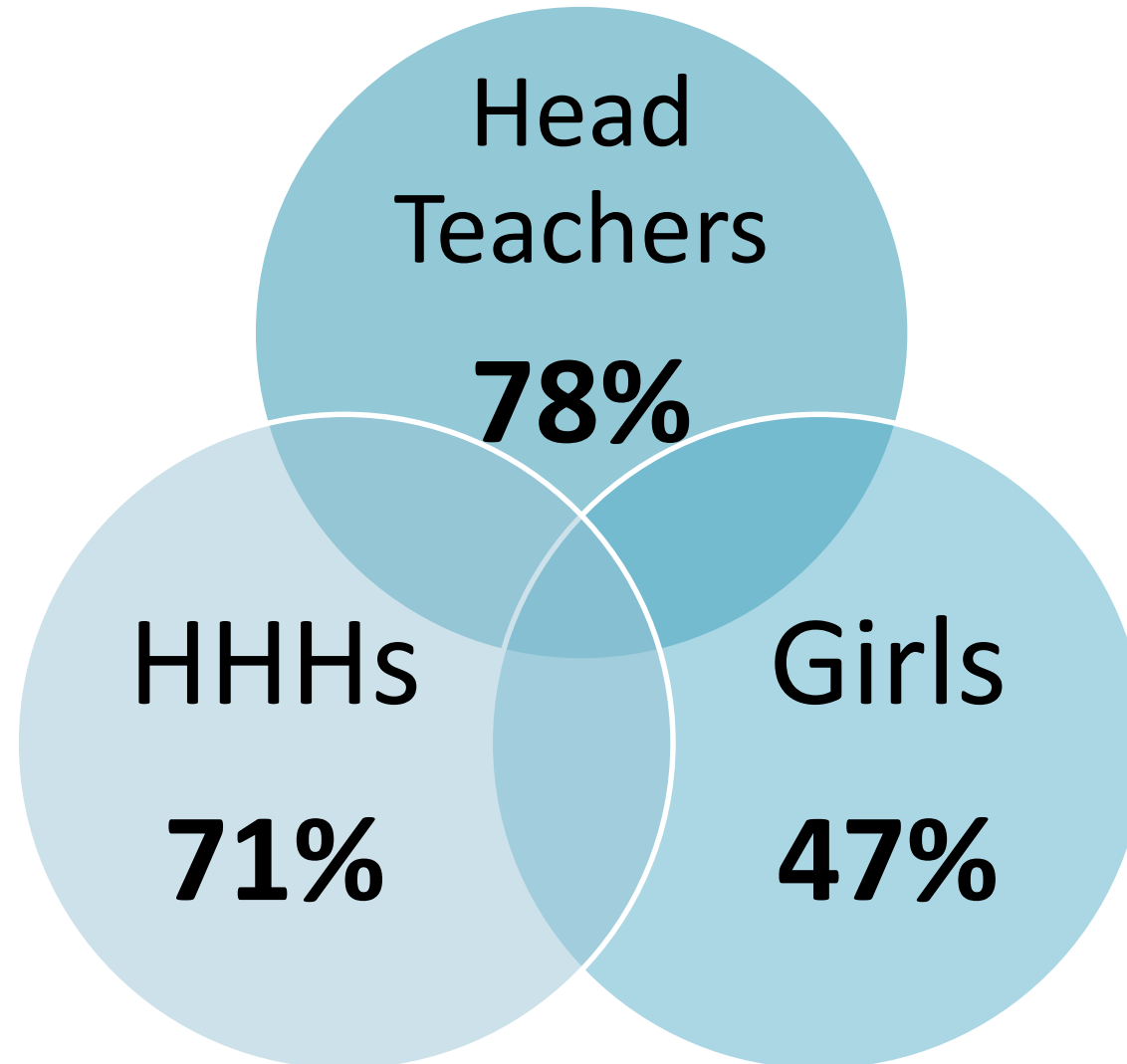
Girls' and HHHs' reasons

- **Gender equity**
- Rights
- Well-being
- Pregnancy is
not a disability

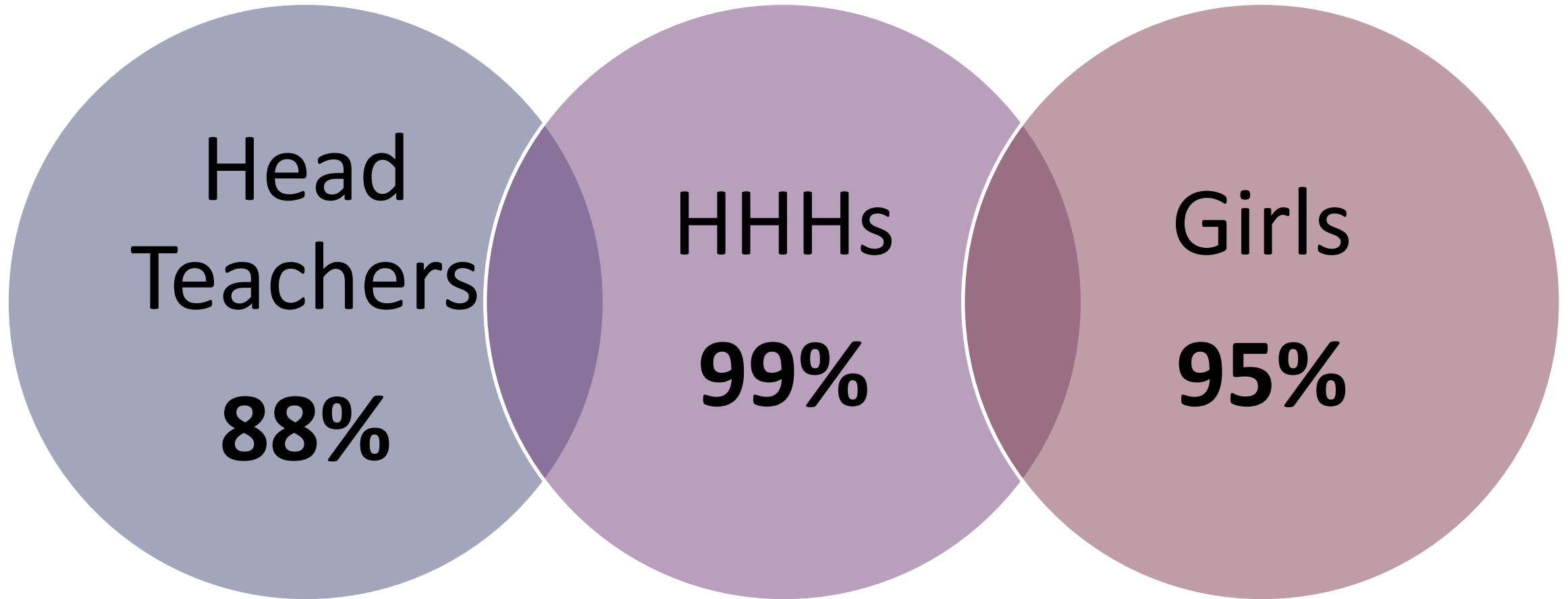
Photo by Uwezo Kenya



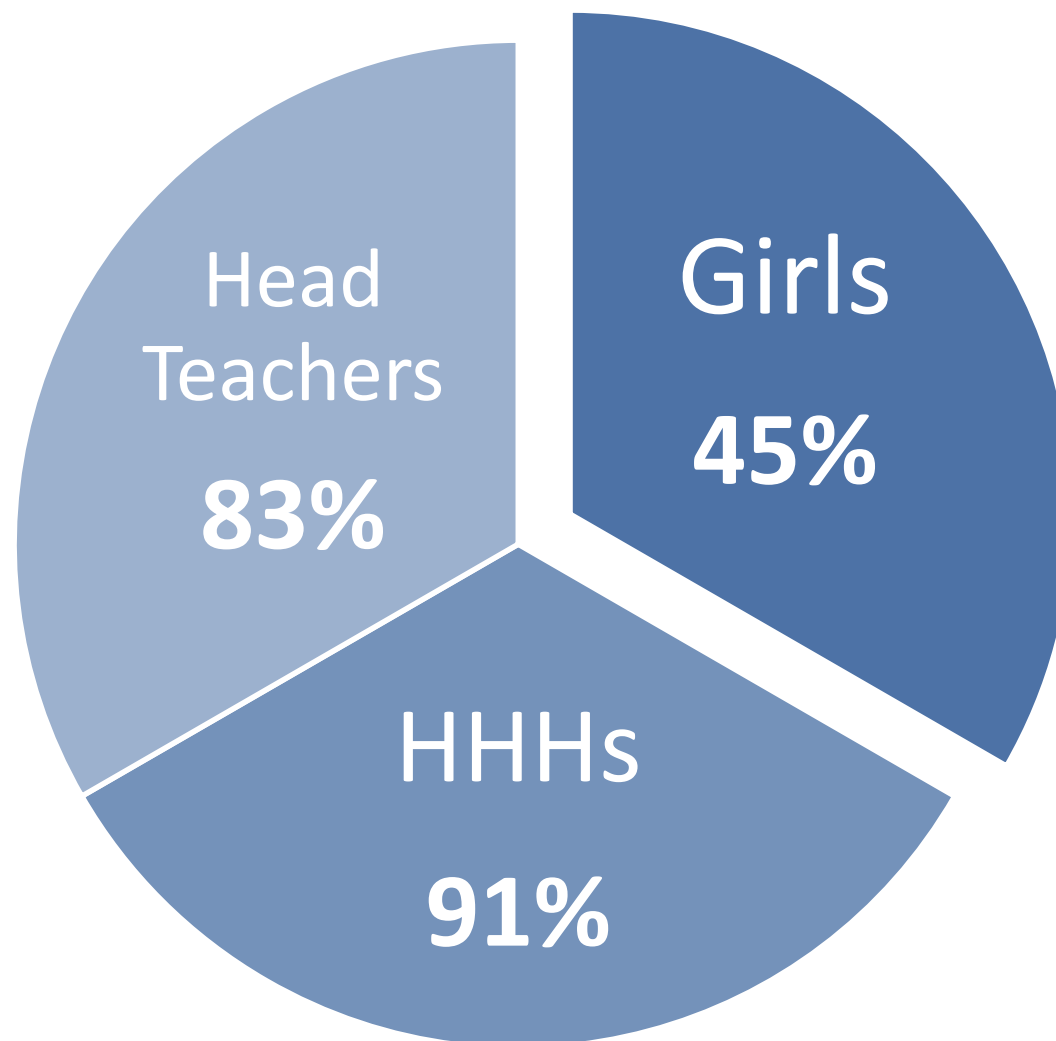
Awareness of National School Health Policy



**‘Girls who get pregnant should be allowed
to return after delivering’**

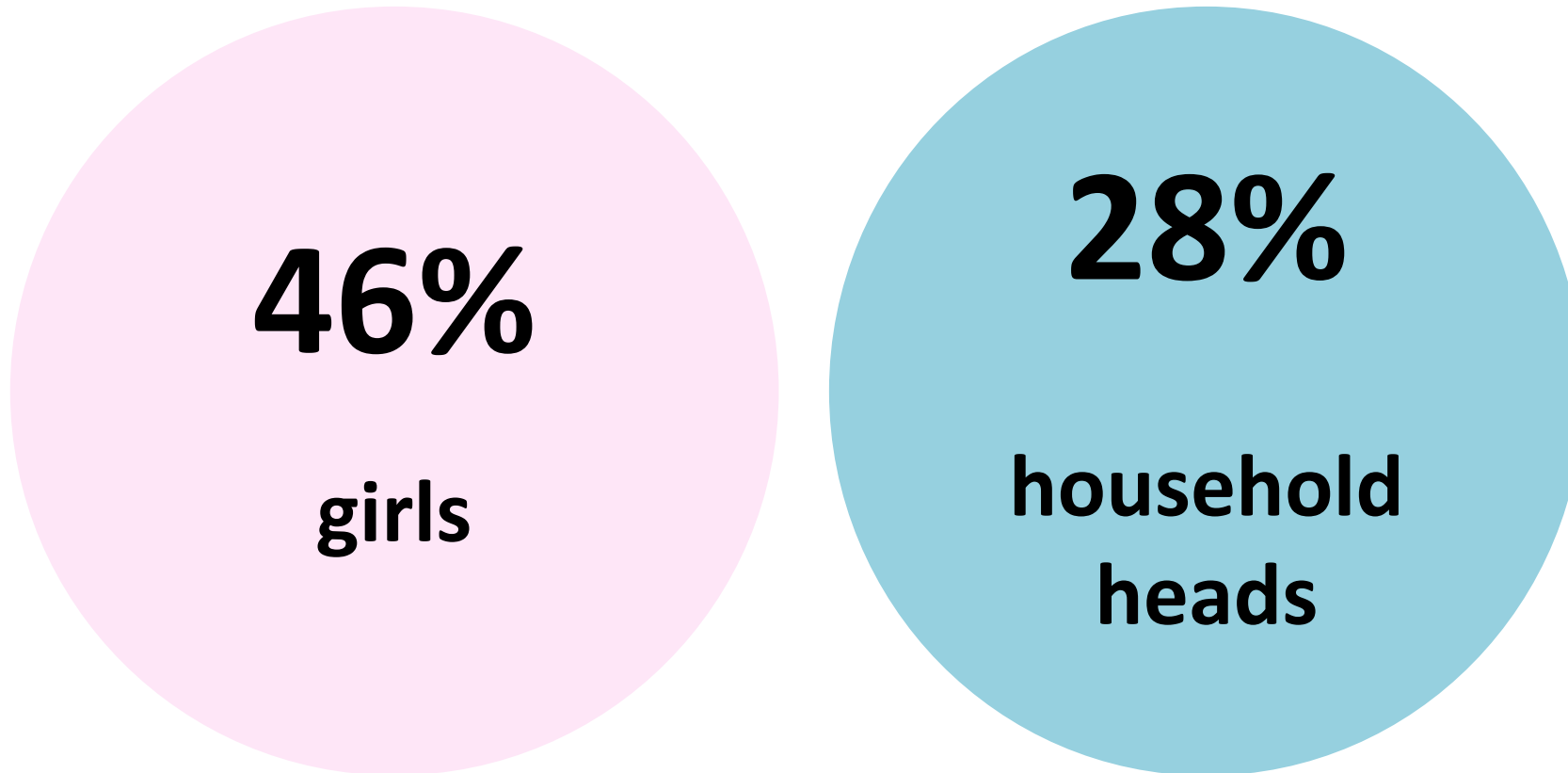


Awareness of school re-entry policy







Head Teachers are instrumental in informing girls and HHHs about the school re-entry policy

Heard about it from a Head Teacher/Teacher



Head teachers' knowledge of school re-entry policy content

Pregnant girls should ...	% of head teachers in agreement
Be dismissed from school for health reasons 	18%
Receive guidance and counseling 	88%
Be re-admitted to other schools <u>with conditions</u> 	52%
Be assisted by head teachers to get admission to other schools 	32%



What we're learning from Girls in Homa Bay County

(aged 12-16)



Schooling

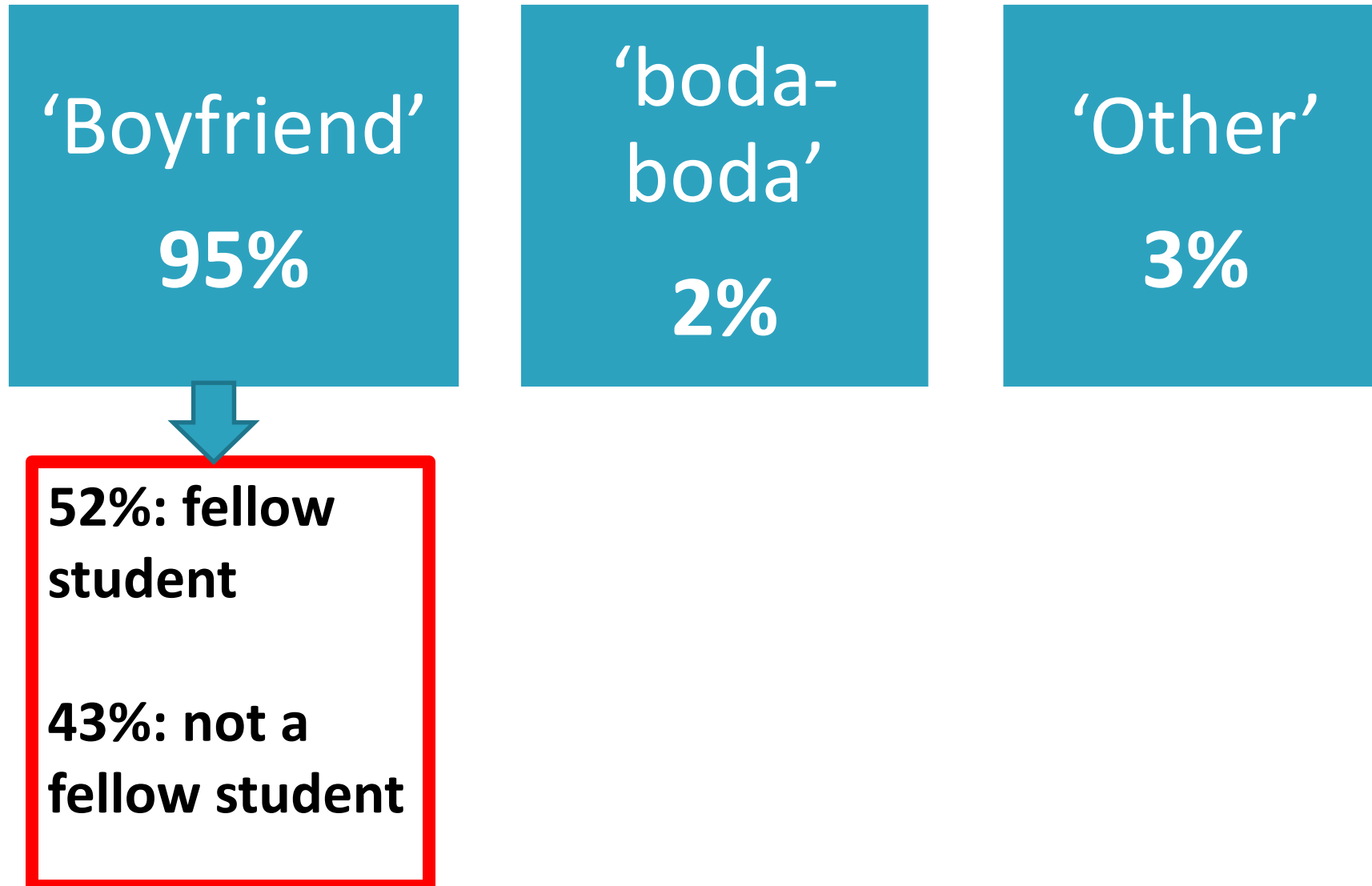
- Most are in school: **96%**
- Most are in primary school, specifically: **88%**
- Among those in school, some have ever had to interrupt their schooling: **12%**
 - **Reasons**
 - Illness: 32%
 - **Pregnancy: 30%**
 - Lack of school fees: 28%



Pregnancy

Among all girls interviewed
(regardless of schooling status),
9-11% have ever been pregnant

Pregnancy: Who is responsible?



Pregnancy: The role of coercive sex

- About **30%** of those who got pregnant (and ever had to leave school as a result) were either **physically forced or pressured** into having sex.



Photo by Citizen TV

Dreams and determination

100%

Of girls currently out-of-school would like to re-enter

96%

Of their HHHs intend to support them in doing so

7%

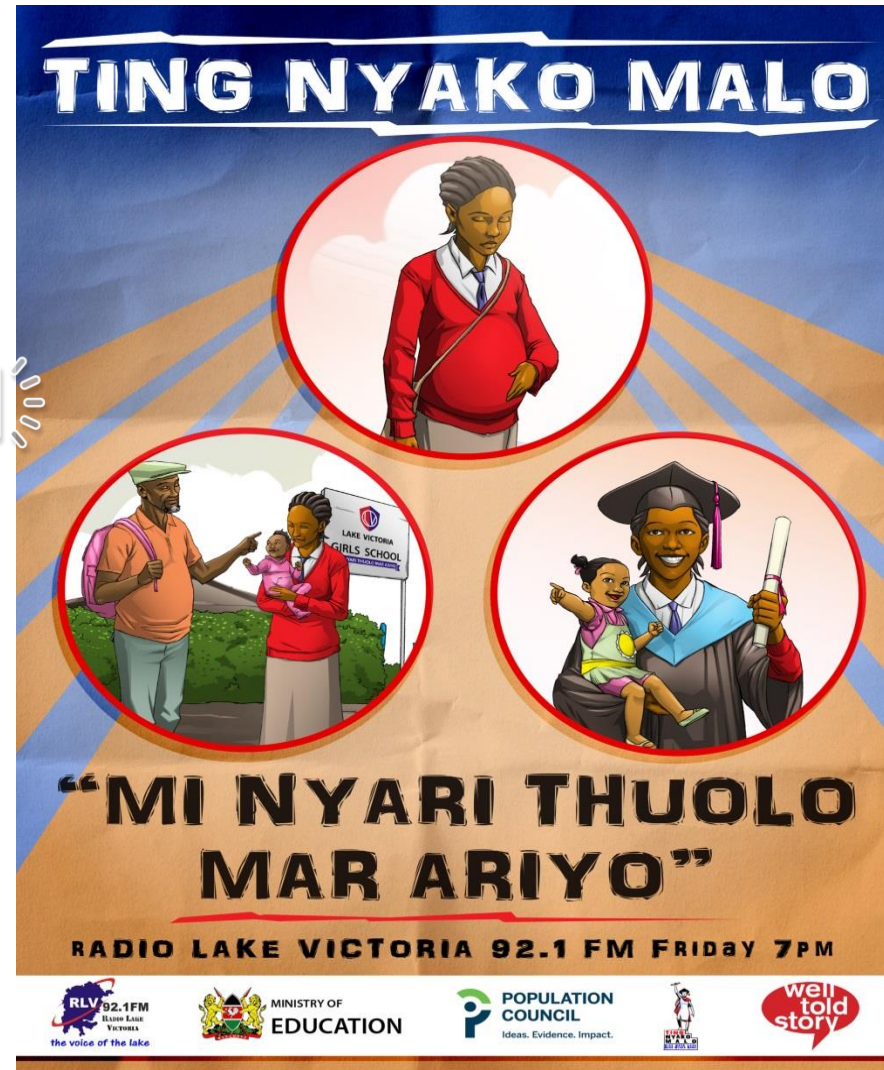
Of these same girls re-entered school, and then dropped out again

Interventions



Interactive media campaign

- Aug to Sept/Oct 2019
 - ‘Real-life’ radio series
 - Expert interviews (MOE, head teachers, community leaders, etc.) on policies
 - Call-ins
 - Complementary IEC materials on policies
 - Road shows



Policy dialogue

- **Two dialogues**
 - With over 300 primary school heads in the 3 sub-counties
- **Advocacy with education stakeholders**



In summary ...

- Homa Bay County presents an enabling environment for the promotion of school re-entry for parenting girls, based on the attitudes and knowledge of school personnel and community members, and on the persistent dreams and desires of parenting girls.



Photo by Capital FM

Thank you for your attention





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Discussion

Group Discussion I:

School Re-entry policy

- What updates/personal best practices can you share on how your school has been implementing the school re-entry policy for parenting girls since the March 2019 Head Teachers Dialogue? How well are these best practices working? Please elaborate.
- *Note: There are many ways to implement the school re-entry policy, even when one currently has no pregnant girls in his/her school.*

Group Discussion II: School re-entry policy

- What barriers have you faced in implementing the school re-entry policy in your school since the March 2019 Head Teachers Dialogue? In what ways are you addressing these barriers? Please elaborate.

Note: There are many ways to implement the school re-entry policy, even when one currently has no pregnant girls in his/her school.

Next Steps

- **In 3 Homa Bay County sub-counties:**
 - ✓ 2nd round of data collection from girls aged 12-16 and their household heads
 - ✓ Continue media campaign (radio)
 - ✓ Sustain 'school re-entry' school trophies
 - ✓ Continue working closely with the Homa Bay County Department of Education
 - ✓ Data analysis and report-writing
 - ✓ Dissemination of project findings